



**MELANIE**  
ON AIR NOW

LOCAL

ON AIR

CONTESTS

MUSIC

NEWS

COMMUNITY

TOP NEWS STORIES



**Categories**

Vernon Coldstream Armstrong Enderby Lumby North Okanagan  
South Okanagan Kelowna B.C. Lake Country Shuswap

Top News Stories > Mussel Campaign Expands

**Mussel Campaign Expands**

Posted on 8/10/2016 12:32 PM by Pete McIntyre

0 0 0



The "Don't Move a Mussel" campaign has been expanded.



Corrine Jackson from the Okanagan Basin Water Board says the three year old program aimed at preventing invasive mussels from entering BC waterways, is now looking for the public to spread the message to friends, neighbors and relatives about the dangers.

"We know that's not an easy conversation to necessarily have, but we're telling people that if you love our lakes, if you love our beaches, if you love the clean water we have to drink, then we really need everyone's help," said Jackson in an interview with Kiss FM.

Jackson says the board is also lobbying the province and feds for more protection measures and funding.

"We know that high risk boats are coming to our area, and that is based on eight inspection stations operating 8 to 10 hours a day, seven days a week. And we're saying those inspections really need to be expanded to include all daylight hours."

The board is also lobbying the federal government to match \$4 million in U.S. funding to assist with inspection programs on the Canadian side of the border, and ensure Canada Border Services officers are enforcing federal regulations by stopping and interviewing all those coming into Canada with watercraft to determine if an inspection and decontamination is necessary.

About 13-thousand boats have been checked in BC this year, with nine confirmed to have invasive mussels, all from Ontario.

Jackson says the greatest number of high-risk watercraft intercepted – 36 per cent – were headed to the Okanagan.

As part of the effort, the [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca) website has been updated with information about having the talk, and new radio ads, bus ads and social media ads have been launched.

As well, new Don't Move A Mussel muscle shirts are being distributed by Okanagan WaterWise and partners.

According to a 2013 study conducted for the OBWB, it is estimated that zebra or quagga mussels could cost over \$40 million each year to the Okanagan alone, in lost revenue, added maintenance of aquatic infrastructure, reduced property values, and irreparable ecological damage.